

[I. B. Smith]

Burks : L.L. [?] 60 [?] [Dup?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview.

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 [So.?] 20th

DATE Dec. 5, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. I.B. Smith—645 So. 20th

2. Date and time of interview. Dec. 5, 1938—5:30 p.m.-8:25 p.m.

3. Place of interview. Residence

4. Name and address of person, if any who put you in touch with informant. Personal acquaintance

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None.

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Interview took place in parlor. Comfortably furnished. Informant greatly interested in reading texts and other literature by foreign authors. Books case hold a number of such volumes.

Form B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20

DATE Dec. 5, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT I.B. Smith, 645 So. 20th

Library of Congress

1. Ancestry. Indian, French, Negro.

2. Place and date of birth. Providence R. [Is?]. Jan. 25, 1853.

3. Family. Two.

4. Place lived in, with dates. Left Providence when twenty two years of age to teach at high school in [Sumter?] S. Carolina. 1881 to 1893. Taught at Allen University not far from Columbia S. Carolina. Came to Nebraska 1901-1938.

5. Education, with dates. Graduated from high school Providence. R. I. and [matriculated?] at Brown U. for two years.

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Educator for eighteen years. Was fourth teller at the Lincoln City National Bank for about eight years. At present mail carrier at the Nebraska State Capitol—17 years.

7. Special skills and interests. Church work.

8. Community and religious activities. Methodist.

9. Description of informant. Slender light complexioned mulatto. Prominent roman nose, high cheek bones.

10. Other points gained in interview. Speaks French, German and Latin fluently. Very mentally alert for an aged person.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20

DATE Dec. 5, 1938 SUBJECT Amn. Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT I.B. Smith 645 So. 20th

"I was born In Providence Rhode Island. My mother was a [Seminole?] Indian. She was from the Everglades region in Florida. My father was from the West Indies and his father was born in Martinique France. I went to school in Providence and when I graduated from high school our exercises were held in the church that Roger Williams founded many years before. In fact I was born but four blocks from the spot where he landed, and as history records, "[Conicuino?]," the Indian chief and his [tribesman?] greeted him by saying "[Neo-pop;?]" which means, "how are you."

I left Providence when I was about twenty one, and went south. I taught at Sumter high school in South Carolina, and also at Allen University outside of Columbia Missouri. I also spent much time going to prison farms throughout the south preaching to the inmates. I delivered a sermon before three thousand inmates at the Federal Prison at Atlanta Georgia. I came to Nebraska in 1901 and settled at [Beatrice?]. When the president of one of the local banks in the city was made a high official of the City National bank of this city he was responsible for me in securing the position of fourth teller at the bank. I held that position for a number of years. I have been mailcarrier at the State House for nearly twenty years and have made many friends.

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A number of years ago I made the acquaintance of Professor Carver the eminent Negro Chemist of [Tuskegee?] Institute of Alabama. A few years ago he sent me a landscape painting which was done by him, and on the back of the picture were these words: "This little landscape is of a grove near the campus. The paints were made from clay that you and I trod over when you visited me many years ago."

I am very proud of Professor Carvers friendship, and hope some day to visit him again.